

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims ~~1-3, 10-12, 19-21, and 28-31~~ without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 ~~1~~. A method for controlling customer resources for network traffic delivery, comprising:
2 tracking network utilization of a group of endpoints on a network to generate group
3 utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of network resource consumption
4 by the group;
5 receiving a message corresponding to a request for network resources for a data flow for
6 one of the endpoints, the request including an identifier associated with the one endpoint and
7 being from one of a router and a packet switch, associated with the one endpoint, said one of the
8 router and the packet switch is a policy enforcement point (PEP);
9 determining whether the request is accepted based on the group utilization level
10 information, the identifier, and a predetermined profile, the predetermined profile being
11 associated with the group and including a network utilization limit;
12 forwarding to said one of the router and the packet switch the result of the decision whether to
13 accept the request; and
14 performing the steps of tracking, receiving, and determining on a server that forms a
15 policy decision point independent of said PEP.

1 ~~2~~. The method of claim ~~1~~, wherein the step of determining comprises the step of:
2 applying a policy rule, using the group utilization level information, the identifier, and the
3 predetermined profile to determine whether the group exceeds the network utilization limit.

1 ~~4~~. The method of claim ~~1~~, wherein the group is associated with a reserved bandwidth
2 service logical access port (RLAP) and the method further comprises the steps of:
3 tracking network utilization of the RLAP, the RLAP including the one endpoint to
4 generate RLAP utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of network
5 resource consumption by the RLAP; and
6 wherein the step of determining comprises the step of:

7 determining whether the request is to be accepted based on the RLAP utilization level
8 information and another predetermined profile that is associated with the group, includes a
9 corresponding network utilization limit.

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Cont. 5/ 8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:
2 adjusting the group utilization level information, when the request is accepted, to reflect
3 the installment of the request and the corresponding increase in network resources consumption.

1 7/ 13. A system for controlling customer resources for network traffic delivery, comprising:
2 means for tracking network utilization of a group of endpoints on a network to generate
3 group utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of network resource
4 consumption by the group;
5 means for receiving a message corresponding to a request for network resources for a
6 data flow for one of the endpoints, the request including an identifier associated with the one
7 endpoint and being from one of a router and a packet switch associated with the one endpoint,
8 said one of the router and the packet switch is a policy enforcement point (PEP);
9 means for determining whether the request is to be accepted based on the group
10 utilization level information, the identifier, and a predetermined profile, the predetermined
11 profile being associated with the group and including a network utilization limit;
12 means for forwarding to said one of the router and the packet switch the result of the
13 decision whether to accept the request; and
14 a server forming a policy decision point independent of said PEP, said server including
15 the means for tracking, the means for receiving, and the means for determining.

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1 8/ 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the means for determining comprises:
2 means for applying a policy rule, using the group utilization level information, the
3 identifier, and the predetermined profile to determine whether the group exceeds the network
4 utilization limit.

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Cont. 10/ 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the group is associated with a reserved bandwidth
2 service logical access port (RLAP), said RLAP including the group; and

3 wherein the system further comprises:
4 means for tracking network utilization of the RLAP, the RLAP including the one
5 endpoint to generate RLAP utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of
6 network resource consumption by the RLAP; and
7 wherein the means for determining further comprises:
8 means for determining whether the request is to be accepted based on the RLAP
9 utilization level information and another predetermined profile that is associated with the group
10 includes a corresponding network utilization limit.

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Cont.
1 ~~11~~ 17. The system of claim ~~13~~ 7, further comprising:
2 means for adjusting the group utilization level information, when the request is accepted,
3 to reflect the installment of the request and the corresponding increase in network resources
4 consumption.

1 ~~13~~ 22. A computer readable medium storing program instructions for execution on a computer
2 system, which when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the steps of:
3 tracking network utilization of a group of endpoints on a network to generate group
4 utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of network resource consumption
5 by the group;
6 receiving a message corresponding to a request for network resources for a data flow for
7 one of the endpoints, the request including an identifier associated with the one endpoint and
8 being from one of a router and a packet switch associated with the one endpoint, said one of the
9 router and the packet switch is a policy enforcement point (PEP);
10 determining whether the request is to be accepted based on the group utilization level
11 information, the identifier, and a predetermined profile, the predetermined profile being
12 associated with the group and including a network utilization limit;
13 forwarding to the router the result of the decision whether to accept the request; and
14 causing the computer to form a policy decision point independent of said PEP.

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Cont.
1 ~~14~~ 23. The computer readable medium of claim ~~22~~ 13, wherein the step of determining comprises
2 the step of:

3 applying a policy rule, using the group utilization level information, the identifier, and the
4 predetermined profile to determine whether the group exceeds the network utilization limit.

16 25. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the group is associated with a
2 reserved bandwidth service logical access port (RLAP), and the computer readable medium
3 further includes program instructions for causing the computer to perform the step of:
4 tracking network utilization of the RLAP, the RLAP including the endpoint to generate
5 RLAP utilization level information corresponding to a current amount of network resource
6 consumption by the RLAP; and wherein step of determining comprises the step of:
7 determining whether the request is to be accepted based on the RLAP utilization level
8 information and another predetermined profile that is associated with the group includes a
9 corresponding network utilization limit.

17 26. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the computer readable medium
2 further includes program instructions for causing the computer to perform the step of:
3 adjusting the group utilization level information, when the request is accepted, to reflect
4 the installment of the request and the corresponding increase in network resources consumption.